

*This came anonymously — saying it
had been printed by two Triators, and might
be printed by us, if we pleased.* *JH*

DELIVERED AT A

8135-b-22

NUMEROUS AND RESPECTABLE MEETING

Here read

IN THE COUNTRY,

It is very well

LATELY HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF

JH

SIGNING A DECLARATION

FOR THE

SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

IN THE

PRESENT ALARMING CRISIS.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR R. EDWARDS, NO. 142, NEW BOND STREET.

1793.

COPIES

RECEIVED

IN REPLY AND RETURN TO THE

IN THE COURT

SIGNING A DECISION



SUPPORT

47
10 9
229

OPINIONS,

&c. &c.

Mr. CHAIRMAN,

BEFORE I presume to trouble the Gentlemen present on the subject of our meeting, I beg leave to say, that I profess to lay aside all prejudices I may have entertained in favour of one set of men, or of another set of men; that I disclaim all party connection whatever on this occasion; and that I divest myself of all partiality, except that partiality of which I hope never to be insensible—partiality to the Constitution of this Country.

B

It

It can hardly be necessary for me, Mr. Chairman, to take up much time in laying before the Meeting the causes of the present alarm in this country. No one can be ignorant of that, which it is impossible he should *not* know ; but as some persons on this occasion (being obstinately determined to resist the conviction of their own minds) have questioned the existence of serious alarms, I beg leave to mention such instances as, I trust, will carry undoubted conviction.

It is unquestionable, that the English Jacobins hold official correspondence with the Jacobins at Paris, avowing their purpose to be *universal equalization*. Clubs are formed in London, and in many parts of the kingdom, where the deluded people are taught to reverence sedition, and embrace rebellion, under the *mask* of liberty and happiness. The members of a club
in

in a northern county are all sworn: they receive regular pay, and are ready to follow those who may call them forth to any desperate enterprise. Incredible pains have been taken throughout Great Britain and Ireland to stir up discontent and commotions—it has been attempted to plant the Tree of Liberty at Dundee in Scotland by a mob of six hundred persons. Every wall in London has been covered with inflammatory and seditious writings—the fidelity of the soldiers has been attempted in more places than one; but *they* shewed themselves by no means behind *any* description of Englishmen in love to their country, and attachment to its happy Constitution: they immediately *seized* on the offenders, and delivered them up to justice.

At the head of a long list of seditious writings stands that most infamous of all productions, *Paine's Rights of Man*. In

my opinion no title to a book ever so completely belied its contents; for if it *be* the right of man to substitute confusion in the place of order, and to destroy all the bonds of law, humanity, and religion*, (without which no civil society can exist) — if it *be* the right of man to level all property, to divide all substance from one end of the world to the other, and to give to each man an equal share, by which the
 dissolute

* The speech of a Member of the National Convention (M. Du Pont) on the 16th of December, 1792, ought certainly to be passed over as the ravings of a mad-man, had it not been applauded by many Members present. He *professed* himself to be an Atheist, and he gloried in that profession. Such a miserable being neither does nor ever did exist. There is a silent monitor in every breast, exclusive of revelation, whose warnings at times compel religious reflection. Atheism, like many other metaphysical speculations, is but a cloak to cover the designs of man on his own species, and as such it was adopted by M. Du Pont, and approved of by his insidious colleagues.

diffolute spendthrift would be placed on an equality with the industrious œconomist—if it *be* the true right of man to decree, that when I have improved my farm, or got a little money by any honest industry, my neighbour might say, Divide with me your profit, because by *nature* we ought to be *all equal*—if *such*, I say, are the rights of man, we have lived indeed to *little* purpose to be so completely *ignorant* of them, and all the happiness we have enjoyed under our excellent Constitution is discovered to be an empty dream, or, at best, a pleasing delusion. Paine, however, has

But in what terms must the rising generation reprobate his advancing such tenets, when the Convention *was deliberating on the education of youth*. To their tender minds he recommends never to suffer their conduct in this life to be in any degree influenced by a consideration of their fate in a future state; and by the same rule that he doubts of any punishment after death, he equally excludes all hopes of a happier condition than that in which we now exist.

lately

lately been convicted by a jury of his countrymen without their going out of Court, from the penalties of which he is now sheltering himself at Paris as a Member of the French Convention, and I trust his works will shortly be as decidedly condemned throughout the kingdom. The liberty (but not the licentiousness) of the press is a constitutional part of our freedom; but when it is notorious that newspapers are pensioned with French money for the purpose of raising tumult and discontent in this country, spreading at the same time through France a belief that disloyalty and treason are ready to hoist their standard here, and wait only for assistance from that faithless nation to break out into open rebellion. I say, when I see such newspapers, I can consider the editors, printers, and publishers of them, in no other light than as professed traitors to their King and Country.

Many

Many well-disposed persons in the country have been for some time past anxious to make public professions, similar to the object of this Meeting ; but it was thought by others more expedient to defer such a measure till after the meeting of Parliament, with a view of knowing, from authority, that there existed causes of alarm : and now Parliament *has* met, how *decidedly* has it justified and supported the precautions taken by Government on this important occasion. Two hundred and ninety to fifty Members, nearly six to one, gave their hearty approbation on the first day of meeting ; since which it may be truly said that the Parliament is unanimous on the subject. Such, therefore, is the voice of our representatives ; and is not that voice echoed from all quarters of the kingdom ? each part striving to be foremost in avowing their loyalty, in declaring their attachment, and in giving their support to the

Laws

Laws and Constitution. — For my part, I was very anxious *this neighbourhood* should stand early forward in declaring its sentiments, as I have solid reasons to believe that not many miles from hence the most treasonable and seditious language has been delivered from a pulpit, and has been the subject matter of a schoolmaster's lessons. One instance more I shall trouble you with, and a very serious one it is: — Mr. Peele, of Manchester, who certainly is one of the first manufacturers in this kingdom, lately informed the House of Commons in his place, that every one of the persons he employed (and very numerous they are) had been *tampered* with on this occasion.

So much for those causes of alarm, many circumstances of which *every* person has, or may have, an opportunity of seeing with his *own eyes*. Let us next, therefore, turn our attention to the real and true source of
those

those alarms ; it is *in France* they have originated ; it is *from France* they have been imported into this country ; and it is the *interest of France* to stir up sedition and rebellion in Great Britain and Ireland by every means in its power.

The instability and sudden changes in the French government (if it deserves the name of a government) subject their political conduct with regard to other nations to every kind of distrust and suspicion. It is not long ago since they proclaimed their determination to give up *for ever* all ideas of conquest, or of extending their dominions beyond their actual limits ; but the *credit* due to their *most serious* declarations can only be estimated by their *actions*. *Without* provocation from the King of Sardinia, their armies have conquered Savoy ; and in direct *contradiction* to themselves, they have determined it shall be called the

84th department of France. With still less reason have they threatened the town of Geneva, and forced them to send away their allies. For the conquest of France they can find no reasonable pretext. The sovereignty of Flanders they have assumed, by taking upon themselves to open the navigation of the Scheldt, a river they have as little right over as over the Thames. Holland, our ally, who has kept the strictest neutrality on this occasion, is now threatened by their arms; and there can be *little doubt*, if a judgement can be formed of their next step, by those they have already taken, that their certain intention is soon to attack Great Britain, and make it also a part of their Republic.

The general cry in France is, let us in every country bring about revolutions similar to our own; let us extirpate Kings from the face of the earth, and absolve all nations

tions from the ties of law and religion. Of this being their principle, what stronger proof do we want than the favourable reception given to an address to the National Convention by a number of English residents at Paris, and presented at the bar by John Frost and Joel Barlow, on the 26th of November last? This address, after congratulating them on the success of their arms, proceeds to express “ their wish
 “ of seeing the French Republic united
 “ with the British nation; and they doubt-
 “ ed not but the majority of the people
 “ would declare themselves of the same
 “ opinion if their sentiments were taken
 “ (as they ought to *be*) in a National Con-
 “ vention *here*.” This address was followed by a speech by John Frost, in which, after congratulating the Convention in the name of the Society for Constitutional Information in London, he assured them
 “ that in consequence of their example,

"Revolutions would be easily brought
 "about in all countries, all regal power
 "would be abolished, and that he expected
 "in a very short time to see addressees of
 "congratulation from the Continent to
 "the National Convention of England."
 The president, in answer, said, "He had
 "no doubt but the hour was nigh at hand
 "when the French would be *able* to con-
 "gratulate Great Britain on *her* National
 "Convention." And now give me leave
 to ask your hearts and minds, if there is
 any one present who does not feel a just
 indignation against such traitors to their
 country?

To carry their plans into effect, the
 French have by no means been sparing in
 sending money, as well as emissaries, a-
 mong us. They are eager to seize the op-
 portunity of indulging their natural hatred
 to this country, under pretence of giving
 univer-

universal liberty, the first blessings of which among themselves, has been to cut down the presses, and murder the printers who published doctrines they did not approve*.

So much for the intentions of France towards us; and now let us see if their situation ought to become the object of our envy or imitation. The *fruit of their tree* of liberty is bitter *indeed*, and their miserable situation is easier to conceive than to describe. That shadow (called their government) is unable and unwilling to enforce what wholesome laws they have left, there is no *personal* security remaining, for

* Of the same description is Mons. le Brun's report to the National Convention concerning England, on the 19th of December; it is indeed a piece of true French political manufacture, in which art and mischief are very curiously interwoven.

there

there is no punishment inflicted on those crimes that disturb the peace of society. In the once-opulent city of Lyons, far the greater part of the manufacturers (said to amount to 30,000) are without bread and employment; and all those charitable institutions, where the poor never failed of finding relief, have been abolished. In many parts the farmer is under the necessity of taking a soldier to market with him, to prevent his corn being plundered on the road. In times of tumult and confusion the situation of *farmers* in *all* countries is truly to be pitied; *they* derive their living from the land they cultivate; *they* therefore have no power of movement, and are not able on sudden danger (as most other descriptions of persons may do) to reduce their property into a small compass, and flee away with it from a foreign foe or domestic enemy. The melancholy accounts of the sufferings of the French farmers,

2

of

of which Mr. Arthur Young (author of the Farmer's Letters) was lately an eye witness, is a true and alarming picture of their situation, and *he* being a farmer himself, is undoubtedly a more competent judge of their complaints. The mob obliges them to sell the produce of their land at a fixed price, and often to part with it at no price at all; to avoid this injustice the farmers abstained from appearing in the markets, and *such* conduct was punished by fine, imprisonment, and forfeiture; the servants and labourers fix their own wages, and who would think it worth while to appeal to armed men who were in possession at the vestry? and not only *voted* the money to be raised in the parish, but *divided* it among themselves. Of such proceedings a famine must necessarily and very shortly be the consequence. Bread in the provinces of France is at this moment double its price in this country, though somewhat less

less than that at Paris, owing to a short-lived *trick* of the government to prevent the people from seeing their desperate situation.

The number of persons murdered in France within these four years, is, by fair computation, full 50,000. But the history of the events that happened at Paris on the 10th of August, and 2d and 3d of September last, is *written* in blood. Human nature on the 10th of August, seems wholly to have lost those feelings that are hardly *ever* extinguished under the impulse of the most violent passions. The hearts of the slain were torn from the bodies, and the women, *dead to every sense of shame*, committed such *cruelties* on the dying men, as it would be equally disgusting for me to repeat, as it would be shocking for you to hear.

The

The 2d and 3d of September surpassed, however, the horrid transactions of the 10th of August. It was reserved for those days to prove, that cool intention and premeditated proscription were *more* sanguinary in their nature than sudden fury and ungoverned passion. On those two days the channels of Paris *absolutely* flowed with human blood, and the streets were strewed with the dead bodies of those wretched victims, whose *imaginary* crimes served as a pretence to the *real* ones of their enemies, and whose accuser, judge, and executioner, was often *one* and the *same* person. In some places the *mockery* of a trial rendered the approach of death *more* terrible; on the table before those men called judges, tobacco and wine held the place of the laws and statute books; and how hard must it have been for the *purest* innocence to command sufficient presence of mind to defend itself, where the sword of the executioner

cutioner was (during the trial) raised over its head, waiting to strike down its victim. To some who, by the fate of their companions, were well assured their own was near at hand, the only miserable consolation they had left was to employ the few remaining moments of life in considering how they could best shorten the pangs of death. They profited by the sufferings of others, and agreed to meet their fate in a *resigned* posture. In closing these too terrible scenes, should any one think me guilty of exaggeration, let him only read a small pamphlet, sold by Stockdale, in Piccadilly, which has for its title "An Account of the Manner in which the Persons confined in the Prisons at Paris were put to Death. By an Eye Witness," who fortunately was acquitted. In the seminary of St. ~~Saput~~ alone, above 400 bishops and priests were put to death; and in all about 5,000 persons, priests, nobles, citizens, soldiers, and

Culpsine

and women, perished by the hands of assassins in those two days, and they are now *most probably* filling up the *measure* of their iniquity, by putting their *King* to death, whom by every disgrace, cruelty, and indignity, they have for a *long* time *taught* to be *little* anxious for the preservation of his life.

Let us now turn our eyes from these scenes of blood, and compare *our happy* situation with the misery of France. So well balanced is *our* Constitution, consisting of King, Lords, and Commons; so just and equal are our laws, so protected and secure do all ranks of people live under them, let their religious tenets and principles be what they may, so long as they conduct themselves as *good* and peaceable subjects; that no one who feels for his freedom, or enjoys his property, can for a moment think of exchanging these *certain*

advantages for the destructive plans of those levellers whose wish it is to *lower* all men to their *own* level, but will by *no* means descend *themselves* to an *inferior* station, though in general men of desperate and broken fortunes; and while they are telling us what *we* are to gain by *their* plan, it would be wise in us to consider what we should *lose* by it.

In this country we have no domineering tyrants nor abject slaves: industry and merit seldom miss the road to preferment and reward; and no one's character and reputation can remain respectable without it deserves to be so.

If it is not expedient to abolish any taxes at this present time, who have we to *thank* for it but those *traitors* to their country, those *enemies* to *all mankind*, who, joined with France, oblige us to spend the
public

public *savings* in arming for our *defence*? When we see our commerce extended far beyond its former bounds, our manufactures increasing to an incredible degree, every one able to enjoy the station in which providence has placed him, with ease and tranquillity; so far from being *dissatisfied*, we ought to be *more* than content; we ought to be *sincerely thankful*, and avoid becoming a *fresh* proof of that *true* but *melancholy* saying, “ That no one knows the “ value of a good thing till he has lost it.”

May the angel of peace ever protect this country; but *sure* I am, that the only *human* means of securing it, in the *present* state of things, is to *show union* and *firmness* among ourselves, and to be *well prepared for war*.

The numerous associations and declarations throughout the kingdom in support
of

of the necessary and wise measures taken by Government, have in *some degree* given a *check* to the mischief which was on the point of breaking out. We have scotched the snake, not killed it; let us not therefore relax our efforts, or suppose we are in a state of *security*. The *last* advices from France speak a language *more* hostile than *ever* against *every* King and every Constitution. They have sent *fresh* orders to their generals to exterminate the established laws and the Government in every country they are able to conquer; *in short*, to make *converts*, with the Rights of Man in *one hand*, and a *merciless* sword in the *other*.

Should it be thought fit by this meeting to enter into a declaration at this alarming crisis, I beg leave to submit the *only* one I have in my hand to their consideration.

THE END.

